

REMARKS

Claims 9-13, 16, 19, 22 and 29 have been amended to clarify the invention and better distinguish the invention over the prior art. Claim 21 has been cancelled. No new matter has been added by the aforementioned changes.

Turning to the art rejections, the rejection of claims 16, 19 and 20 under 35 US §102(b) as being anticipated by Hallman et al. (US Patent No. 6,187,380) is in error.¹

Claim 16, as amended, requires in part “[a]pplying imagewise a co-synergist for initiating a polymerization reaction in a subsequent heat treatment step.” Claim 20 requires in part “[a] heater capable of heating the printing press.” The process taught by Hallman et al. does not use a heating step (Column 10 line 50 through column 11 line 26). Hallman teaches using a chemical or an electromagnetic catalyst but not a thermal catalyst or initiator (Column 4, lines 58-59).

Claim 19, as amended, requires in part “[a]pplying imagewise to said coating, a water-based solution comprising an amine.” Hallman et al. teaches using epoxy resin hardening agents such as an aliphatic, cycloaliphatic or aromatic amine such as diethylene triamine, triethylene tetramine, tetraethylene pentamine, methylene dianiline, metaphenylene diamine, polyamides, but not a water-based solution containing an amine (Column 6, lines 5-10 and Example 4).

Thus, claims 16, 19, and 20 are patentable over Hallman et al.

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¹ In the detailed action, the Examiner rejects claims 9-13, 16, 19, and 20-21 as being anticipated by Hallman et al. but only details the rejections of claims 16, 19 and 20-21. Detailed rejections of claims 9-13 with Hallman et al. and DeBoer et al. are subsequently described in the detailed action. Thus, Applicants assume the Examiner only meant to reject claims 16, 19 and 20-21 in view of Hallman et al. and treat the rejection as such.

The rejection of claims 9-13, 22, and 29-30 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hallman et al. (US Patent No. 6,187,380) in view of DeBoer et al. (US Patent No. 6,044,762) likewise is in error.

Claim 9, as amended, requires in part “[s]aid insolubilizing chemical undergoes a chemical reaction with, or facilitates a chemical reaction in said subtractive coating on said plate, making the reaction coating insoluble to a developing solution in said working fluids in which the unreacted coating is soluble.” Claim 29 requires in part “[a]n on-press developable printing plate with a subtractive coating that is chemically reactive with said insolubilizing fluid. “

Neither Hallman et al. nor DeBoer et al. teaches these elements. Hallman et al. does not teach an imaging method but rather the preparation of an imaging member. DeBoer et al. teaches treating a silicon rubber layer with a developing liquid and removing the swelled portion of the silicon rubber layer by swabbing it with cotton (Column 8, lines 19-30). Thus, claims 9 and 29 are not achieved nor rendered obvious by the combination of Hallman et al. and DeBoer et al.

Claims 10-13, and 30 depend directly or indirectly on claims 9, and 29 and are allowable for the same reasons as stated above, as well as for their own additional limitations.

The Examiner’s rejection of claim 22 under 35 USC 103(a) as being anticipated by Hallman et al. in view of Busman et al. (US Patent No. 5,763,134) is likewise in error. Claim 22 depends on claim 20. The deficiencies of Hallman et al. vis-à-vis Applicants’ claim 20 is discussed above. Busman et al. does not provide the missing teachings of Hallman et al. of a heater. Busman teaches photochemical acid progenitors in combination with dihydroperimidinium squarylium dyes are effective at generating acid upon irradiation with near-

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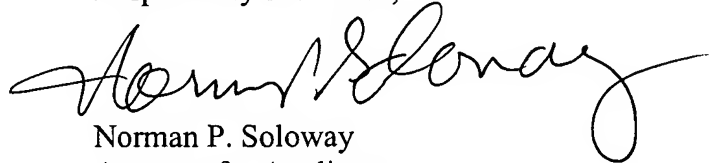
infrared radiation (Abstract). Thus, no combination of Hallman et al. and Busman et al. could achieve or render obvious claim 22.

The objection to the IDS is noted. All of the listed prior art references are of record in one or more of the parent applications. Thus, it is believed the Examiner is already charged with knowledge of the several prior art references listed. Notwithstanding, in order to facilitate the Examiner's consideration of same, Applicants are submitting clean Form 1449's (19 sheets) with this Amendment. Additional copies of the references are not being provided since they previously were supplied in connection with the parent applications.

Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, the Application is believed to be in order for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account Number 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,



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